

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515–2308

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and  
Related Agencies  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you consider Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations legislation for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24), we urge you to continue funding Head Start at the strongest level the Subcommittee deems possible. At a time when there are significant disagreements on the federal budget and the most effective use of taxpayer dollars, continued investment to build on the successes of Head Start is a fiscally responsible decision.

Since launched nearly 60 years ago, Head Start has effectively embraced and implemented a “whole child, whole family” model. Children from at-risk backgrounds - those living in poverty, in foster care, or experiencing homelessness - benefit from comprehensive education, health, and nutrition services. Their parents and caregivers also benefit from those services, in addition to employment and educational support.

In Fiscal Year 2022 alone, Head Start and Early Head Start staff conducted over 4.5 million home visits to families, helped over 550,000 children stay up-to-date on early and periodic diagnostic and treatment screenings, and provided preventative dental care to over 370,000 children. Head Start programs also represent a key opportunity to support many of the children and families most adversely affected by trauma. Serving this vulnerable population is a core strength of Head Start, but post-pandemic, it has become even more urgent, with children showing up with clear signs of trauma and related behavioral issues. Funding for Head Start to address childhood trauma has dramatic long-term cost savings.

Research has demonstrated that high-quality early childhood education programs like Head Start generate a significant return on investment, and the advantages of the program can last a lifetime. A study published in December 2022 in the *Journal of Political Economy* concluded that Head Start children (and their children as well) have higher educational attainment, lower teen pregnancy, and less criminal engagement on average. These findings complement other research concluding that Head Start benefits the children it serves. Building on that success, it’s essential that we continue to invest in Head Start’s

proven, crisis-tested work that unlocks the doors to opportunity for children and families across our great nation.

Head Start is a key component of our nation's commitment to building strong families and communities and to breaking the cycle of poverty that prevents too many children from achieving their full potential. It's a program that prepares children for success in school and life and employs over a quarter of a million individuals across the country.

Continued robust funding for Head Start is a wise, cost-effective investment in children, families, and local communities that ultimately leads to greater prosperity for future generations. As you evaluate FY24 funding requests, we urge the Subcommittee to prioritize Head Start. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



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Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress



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Jenniffer González-Colón  
Member of Congress



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Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



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Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



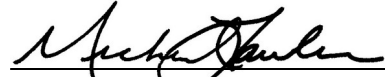
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Andrew R. Garbarino  
Member of Congress



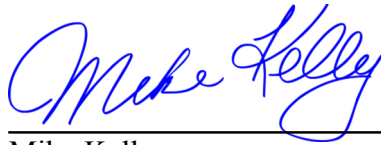
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Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress



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Michael V. Lawler  
Member of Congress



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Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



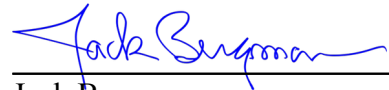
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Mike Bost  
Member of Congress



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Aumua Amata Coleman  
Radewagen  
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Jack Bergman  
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Brett Guthrie  
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Mike Carey  
Member of Congress



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Daniel Meuser  
Member of Congress



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Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.  
Member of Congress



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Nancy Mace  
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